

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

FRIENDS OF MOON CREEK, an unincorporated association, Cheryl and Robert Balentine, George A. and Jane Doe Tyler; Douglas M. and Jane Doe Anderson; Tom and Michele Bowyer Joe F. and Jane Doe Struther; Mark and Jane Doe Moeser; Gaylan and Jane Doe Warren, and Michael and Jane Doe Jeffrey,

No. CV-13-0396-JLQ

**ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFFS'  
MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION**

### **Plaintiffs.**

vs.

DIAMOND LAKE IMPROVEMENT,  
ASSOCIATION, INC., PHIL ANDERSON,  
Director Department of Fish & Wildlife,  
SHARON SORBY, Coordinator Pend  
Oreille County Noxious Weed Control  
Board.

#### **Defendants/Cross-/Counter-Claimants.**

18 BEFORE THE COURT is Plaintiffs' Motion for Reconsideration Under Rule  
19 59(e). (ECF No. 173). Defendant Anderson, of the Department of Fish & Wildlife, and  
20 Defendant Diamond Lake Improvement Association ("DLIA") have both filed a response  
21 to the Motion. Oral argument was not requested, and the Motion was submitted for  
22 decision without oral argument.

## **I. Procedural History and Background**

24 This action was commenced on November 21, 2013. The procedural history has  
25 been set forth at length in prior filings and will not be repeated here. The court has set  
26 forth the general factual background in prior Orders. (See for example ECF No. 71, 80,  
27 133, & 139). In regard to the instant Motion, on February 5, 2015, the court entered its

1 Order denying the cross-Motions for Summary Judgment filed by Plaintiffs and by  
 2 Defendant Anderson. On February 18, 2015, Plaintiffs filed the Motion for  
 3 Reconsideration seeking reconsideration pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 59(e), or alternatively  
 4 a determination of material facts not in dispute under Fed.R.Civ.P. 56(g). Plaintiffs  
 5 contend that the court found genuine issues of material fact on questions that are not  
 6 genuinely disputed. Plaintiffs ask that if the court does not reconsider and grant summary  
 7 judgment that the court make findings that certain facts are not disputed. Defendant  
 8 Anderson states the Motion should be denied “because the facts set forth by Plaintiffs are  
 9 either in dispute, not material because the time to challenge the legality of the process has  
 10 passed, or are mischaracterizations of the evidence.” (ECF No. 174, p. 2). Defendant  
 11 DLIA’s response is much more expansive and claims the court cannot reconsider the  
 12 prior ruling because it lacks jurisdiction, Plaintiffs’ lack standing, and as a matter of law  
 13 DLIA did not act under color of law. (ECF No. 191).

## 14           **II. Discussion**

### 15           **A. Rule 59(e)**

16 Fed.R.Civ.P. 59(e) provides that a “motion to alter or amend a judgment must be  
 17 filed no later than 28 days after the entry of the judgment.” The court has not entered  
 18 judgment, as the Motions for Summary Judgment were denied. The court’s Order (ECF  
 19 No. 172) denying the Motions for Summary Judgment is not a Rule 54 “Judgment,” and  
 20 as stated in Rule 54(b), “any order or other decision, however designated, that adjudicates  
 21 fewer than all the claims or the rights and liabilities of fewer than all the parties does not  
 22 end the action as to any of the claims or parties and may be revised at any time before the  
 23 entry of judgment.” The court does have authority to revise its prior Order.

24 Reconsideration of a previous order is an extraordinary remedy, to be used  
 25 sparingly in the interests of finality and conservation of judicial resources. *Kodimer v.*  
*26 County of San Diego*, 2010 WL 2926493 (S.D. Cal. 2010) citing *Carroll v. Nakatani*, 342  
 27 F.3d 934, 945 (9th Cir. 2003). As Plaintiffs rely on Rule 59(e), the primary grounds for  
 28

1 reconsideration under that Rule are: 1) an intervening change in controlling law; 2) the  
 2 presentation of newly discovered evidence; and 3) the need to correct clear error or  
 3 prevent manifest injustice. *Thomas v. United States*, 1997 WL 881213 (D.Or. 1997)  
 4 citing *School Dist. No. 1J v. AC and S, Inc.*, 5 F.3d 1255, 1263 (9th Cir. 1993).  
 5 Reargument of the previously determined motion is not grounds for granting a motion for  
 6 reconsideration. *Kodimer*, at \*1 citing *American Ironworks v. North American Const.*  
 7 *Corp.*, 248 F.3d 892, 899 (9th Cir. 2001). A district court may decline to consider an  
 8 issue raised for the first time in motion for reconsideration. *Id.* at \*1.

9 Plaintiffs do not argue an intervening change in controlling law, or present newly  
 10 discovered evidence. Rather it appears Plaintiffs argue that the court erred in its  
 11 conclusion that there were questions of fact which precluded summary judgment. The  
 12 request for reconsideration is **DENIED**.

13 **B. Rule 56(g)**

14 Fed.R.Civ.P. 56(g) provides: “If the court does not grant all the relief requested by  
 15 the motion, it may enter an order stating any material fact—including an item of damages  
 16 or other relief—that is not genuinely in dispute and treating the fact as established in the  
 17 case.” This Rule uses the term “may” and is discretionary. See *U.S. Bank v. Verizon*, 761  
 18 F.3d 409, 428 n.15 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014)(“The Rule’s use of the word “may”, as opposed to  
 19 “shall”, indicates that district court’s are not *required* to enter a separate order under Rule  
 20 56(g)”). At the time the prior cross-Motions for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 140 &  
 21 148) were filed, the time for discovery on liability had not closed. Further, Defendant  
 22 Sorby was not involved in the argument of those Motions, and DLIA was only partially  
 23 involved. Given that setting, with discovery still open and evidence and testimony  
 24 potentially still to be discovered, it did not make sense for the court to issue an Order  
 25 listing facts which are established for trial. Now, in the current posture there are  
 26 additional pending dispositive motions: 1) Defendant Sorby’s Motion for Summary  
 27 Judgment (ECF No. 175); 2) Plaintiffs’ Motion for Summary Judgment against Sorby

1 (ECF No. 180); and 3) Defendant DLIA’s Motion to Dismiss and Joinder in Sorby’s  
2 Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 185). The court exercises its discretion and  
3 declines Plaintiffs’ request to issue an order stating material facts that are allegedly  
4 established in the case.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

Plaintiffs' Motion for Reconsideration (ECF No. 173) is **DENIED**.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.** The Clerk shall enter this Order and furnish copies to counsel.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2015.

s/ Justin L. Quackenbush  
JUSTIN L. QUACKENBUSH  
SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE